

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION

ROBERT SALCETTI

*Plaintiff*

v.

AIG PROPERTY CASUALTY COMPANY

*Defendant*

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 4:19-CV-1184

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL**  
**BY DEFENDANT AIG PROPERTY CASUALTY COMPANY**

Defendant AIG Property Casualty Company (“AIG”) files this Notice of Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), as follows:

**I. COMMENCEMENT AND SERVICE**

1. This is a residential property insurance coverage dispute. On March 5, 2019, Plaintiff Robert Salcetti (“Plaintiff” or “Salcetti”) filed an action styled Cause No. 2019-16282; *Robert Salcetti v. AIG Property Casualty Company*; in the 61st Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas (the “State Court Lawsuit”).

2. On March 7, 2019, AIG was served with citation and process in the State Court Lawsuit. This Notice of Removal is filed within 30 days of that date, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). *Bd. of Regents of Univ. of Tex. Sys. v. Nippon Tel. & Corp.*, 478 F.3d 274, 278 (5th Cir. 2007).

**II. GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL**

3. This action is removable because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties and because damages alleged are in excess of \$75,000.00. Accordingly, this matter is within the jurisdiction conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

4. Copies of all pleadings, process, and orders in the State Court Lawsuit are attached to this Notice as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).

5. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because the State Court Lawsuit was filed in Harris County District Court, and that court is located in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division.

6. AIG will promptly file a copy of this Notice of Removal with the clerk of the Harris County District Court, where the State Court Lawsuit is pending.

### **III. DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP**

7. Plaintiff Salcetti is an individual who resides in Harris County, Texas.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, Plaintiff is a citizen of Texas for the purposes of federal diversity jurisdiction. *Coury v. Prot*, 85 F.3d 244, 249 (5th Cir. 1996); *see Robertson v. Cease*, 97 U.S. 646, 648-650 (1878).

8. AIG is organized under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, and maintains its principal place of business at 175 Water Street, New York, NY 10038. Accordingly, AIG is a citizen of Pennsylvania and New York for the purposes of federal diversity jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. §1332(c)(1); *see Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 559 U.S. 77, 92-93 (2010).

### **IV. AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY**

9. Generally, the amount in controversy in a given action is determined from the complaint itself, unless it appears that the amount stated in the complaint is not claimed in good faith. *See Horton v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co.*, 367 U.S. 348, 353 (1961). When the complaint does not include the amount of damages sought, a defendant may prove the amount exceeds \$75,000.00 by showing that it is facially apparent from the petition that the claims are in excess

---

<sup>1</sup> Tab 3, Plaintiff's Original Petition at ¶ 2.

thereof. *Allen v. R & H Oil & Gas Co.*, 63 F.3d 1326, 1335 (5th Cir. 1995). In this case, Plaintiff specifically alleges that he "seeks monetary relief of over \$1,000,000."<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, it is facially apparent from Plaintiff's Original Petition that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00. As such, federal diversity jurisdiction exists, and AIG is entitled to remove this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441.

## **V. JURY DEMAND**

10. Plaintiff demanded a jury in the State Court Lawsuit.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

11. This action should be removed to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 inasmuch as there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties, and the judgment value of damages sought by Plaintiff is in excess of the jurisdictional limit.

12. Pursuant to Local Rule 81 of the Southern District of Texas, AIG is filing with this Notice of Removal the following:

- (i) All executed process in the case;
- (ii) Pleadings asserting causes of action and all answers to such pleadings.<sup>3</sup>
- (iii) All orders signed by the state judge;
- (iv) The docket sheet;
- (v) An index of matters being filed; and
- (vi) A list of all counsel of record, including addresses, telephone numbers, and parties represented.

---

<sup>2</sup> Tab 3, Plaintiff's Original Petition at ¶ 46.

<sup>3</sup> AIG did not file an answer in state court as this Notice of Removal is filed before the state court answer deadline.

WHEREFORE, AIG Property Casualty Company respectfully requests that this Court remove this action from the 61157th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ *Raymond Gregory*

Raymond L. Gregory II  
State Bar No. 08438275  
S.D. Texas Bar No. 12879  
rlg2@egglestonbriscoe.com

EGGLESTON & BRISCOE, LLP  
333 Clay Street, Suite 4800  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 659-5100 - Telephone  
(713) 951-9920 – Facsimile

ATTORNEY-IN-CHARGE FOR  
DEFENDANT AIG PROPERTY  
CASUALTY COMPANY

OF COUNSEL:

John Michael Raborn  
State Bar No. 24057364  
S.D. Texas Bar No. 940054  
jmr@egglestonbriscoe.com  
EGGLESTON & BRISCOE, LLP  
333 Clay Street, Suite 4800  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 659-5100 - Telephone  
(713) 951-9920 – Facsimile

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on April 1, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was forwarded to all counsel of record, including those listed below, via the CM/ECF System and/or any proper method of service allowed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Rules for this Court, or any method of service agreed to in writing by the parties:

Jesus Garcia, Jr.  
Garcia De La Garza  
801 Travis Street, Suite 2175  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 333-1029 – Fax  
JGarcia-Team@GHTexasLaw.com

/s/ *Raymond Gregory*  
Raymond L. Gregory II